

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 08297 181715Z

60

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 L-03 NSC-10 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02

STR-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-15 RSR-01

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R 181705Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2721

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 08297

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: ETRD, EEC, UK, US, XA

SUBJECT: UK POSITION ON PREFERENCES

REF: BONN 10060 NOTAL

1. ON JULY 18, JOHN ROBINSON (ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LONDON 08297 181715Z

AT THE FCO) GAVE US AN ACCOUNT OF CURRENT EC CONSIDERA-

TION OF THE RECIPROCITY ISSUE IN RELATION TO THE YAOUNDE ASSOCIATES AND COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIABLES. ROBINSON SHOULD BE PROTECTED FULLY AS THE SOURCE OF THIS INFORMATION.

2. ROBINSON SAID THAT THE UK CONTINUES TO MAINTAIN THAT THE COMMUNITY SHOULD NOT DEMAND RECIPROCITY OF ANY KIND FROM THESE COUNTRIES. HE TOLD US THAT THE FRENCH POSITION SEEMED TO HARDEN LAST WEEK WHEN THE FRENCH PERMREP TABLED TWO ALTERNATIVE DRAFT DECLARATIONS FOR THE COMMUNITY TO USE AT ITS JULY 25-26 PRE-NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE WITH THE YAOUNDE ASSOCIATES AND COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIABLES. THE FIRST ALTERNATIVE CONTAINED THE CLASSIC FRENCH POSITION OF REQUIRING REVERSE PREFERENCES. THE SECOND STATED THAT THE PRESENT AND FUTURE ASSOCIATES WOULD HAVE TO CHOOSE ONE OF THE THREE OPTIONS IN PROTOCOL 22 OF THE EC ACCESSION TREATY.

3. ROBINSON CONFIRMED THAT THE FRG WAS READY TO WORK OUT A COMPROMISE ON THE BASIS OF THE FRENCH PROPOSALS (REFTEL). THE BRITISH HELD FIRM, HOWEVER, ALONG WITH THE DUTCH AND THE DANES. THIS WEEK'S PERMREP DISCUSSION HAVE BEEN MORE ENCOURAGING, ACCORDING TO ROBINSON, AND THERE IS NOW A GOOD CHANCE THAT THE EC COUNCIL WILL DECIDE ON JULY 23-24 THAT THE COMMUNITY SHOULD GO INTO THE PRE-NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE WITH AN OPEN POSITION ON RECIPROCITY, AND THAT IT SHOULD MERELY ASK FOR THE VIEWS OF THE ASSOCIATES AND ASSOCIABLES.

4. ROBINSON SAID HE HAS REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE FRENCH ARE LOBBYING HARD WITH THE YAOUNDE CONVENTION COUNTRIES, AND IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE UNITED FRONT AGAINST RECIPROCITY WHICH HAS BEEN DEVELOPED AT THE ABIDJAN, ADDIS AND LAGOS MEETINGS MAY COME APART AT THE PRE-NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE. ROBINSON SAID THAT NIGERIAN TRADE COMMISSIONER WENIKE BRIGGS WILL SPEAK FOR THE OAU COUNTRIES AT THIS MEETING. ACCORDING TO ROBINSON, LIBERIA AND THE SUDAN WILL BE REPRESENTED AT THE MEETING, AND ETHIOPIA AND LIBYA MAY ALSO ATTEND. HE SAID THESE ADDITIONAL COUNTRIES CAN BE EXPECTED TO

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LONDON 08297 181715Z

SUPPORT A POSITION OF NON-RECIPROCITY. (ROBINSON SAID HE HAD HEARD THAT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN ADDIS HAD BEEN APPLYING HEAVY PRESSURE ON THE ETHIOPIANS NOT TO ATTEND, WHICH HE CONSIDERED TO BE CONTRARY TO US INTERESTS UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES. WE TOLD ROBINSON WE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF SUCH A US INITIATIVE.)

4. ANOTHER POSSIBLE PITFALL AT THE PRE-NEGOTIATING

CONFERENCE, ROBINSON SAID, WILL BE THE DECISION ON THE PROCEDURES FOR OPENING FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS IN SEPTEMBER. ROBINSON EXPECTS THE FRENCH WILL TRY TO ESTABLISH A PROCEDURE THAT WILL FORCE THE AFRICANS TO CHOOSE ONE OF THE THREE PROTOCOL 22 OPTIONS. THIS COULD RESULT IN EC NEGOTIATIONS WITH TWO OR MORE SEPARATE GROUPS OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES, WITH HARMFUL LONG-RUN EFFECTS ON THE PROSPECTS FOR INTRA-AFRICAN COOPERATION.

ANNENBERG

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